

April 9, 2019

Pat Allen, Director
Oregon Health Authority
500 Summer St., NE E-20
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Director Allen,

As a key community stakeholder in Oregon's ongoing efforts to transform health care, the Lane County Board of Commissioners has a keen interest in the OHA's efforts to select contractors for Coordinated Care Organizations 2.0. Following a recent Board work session on the topic, we are writing to express our strong desire that the OHA select only one entity to serve as a CCO for the residents in Lane County.

According to the OHA website, a total of four entities submitted Letters of Intent to apply to serve Lane County. Instead of creating a single, community-based point of coordination with all the relevant stakeholders, the impact of contracting with more than one CCO in this community will be to create multiple and duplicative organizations that demand time from Lane County and other local stakeholders, threatening to reduce the CCO concept to one that is more similar to competing health insurance plans rather than an engine for transformation.

As you know, CCOs were created as a primary vehicle to bring community stakeholders together to share responsibility for health; to be accountable for improving physical, mental, and oral health; to improve the coordination of care for individuals while addressing social determinants of health; and ultimately to achieve the Triple Aim of improved health, improved care, and contained costs. Lane County currently has a single CCO, alongside a single Early Learning Hub, Local Mental Health Authority, Local Public Health Authority, Community Mental Health Program, Seniors and Disability Services, and housing agency, all of which creates excellent opportunities for strong stakeholder engagement and collaboration. We strongly believe that contracting with multiple CCOs in Lane County would move that backwards, fracturing the system rather than fostering coordination, alignment, and collaboration for system transformation.

We are writing to you since under the current Request for Applications, OHA has significant latitude about the number of contracts to be awarded in any single region. We urge you to only award a single contract for this region. In future procurement processes, the Board would ask that there be a stronger voice for Counties, as representatives of local communities, in selecting the entities selected as CCOs in communities. The current process does not provide a mechanism for us to weigh in about strengths and weaknesses on particular applications, and we believe that in future procurements, the OHA would benefit from that information during this initial stage of selection.

Thank you for your consideration, and please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Pete Sorenson, Chair
Lane County Board of Commissioners